[Translation]

Upgradation of Sujra Station

3422. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS *be pleased to state:*

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the Sujra Station on Delhi-Baghpat-Shyamli section to 'B' class during 1991-92;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposal has not been found financially justified.

LPG agencies in Rajsthan

3423. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of LPG agencies at present in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints from consumers of various gas agencies in Ajmer district regarding irregularities being committed by them; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As on 1.4.1991 there were 158 LPG distributorships in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Whenever complaints are received they are looked into and appropriate action is taken.

[English]

Production in Central Coalfields Limited in Eighth Plan

3424. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any step to increase coal production during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the target proposed to be set up for coal production in the Eighth plan, particularly by the Central Coalfields Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) for the development of coal industry is under preparation.

[Translation]

Amount spent on Oil and Gas Drilling in Rajasthan

3425. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) since when the exploration work for oil and natural gas has been going on in Rajasthan; and

(b) the amount spent thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Since 1958.

(b) Till 31.3.1991. a total amount of Rs. 260.96 crores has been spent.

Waiting List for LPG Connection in Karnataka

3426. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise waiting list for LPG connections in Karnataka and the present monthly demand of LPG in the State; and

(b) the steps taken to provide LPG connections to all the applicants on the waiting lists?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As on 1.4.91, 2.62 lakhs persons are on the waiting list. The average monthly consumption during 1990-91 was 9.1 TMT.

(b) Efforts are on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as possible in Karnataka.

Coal Mafia

3427. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deposited money of the coal mafia has been forfeited after the investigation conducted by the C.B.I.;

(b) if so, the amount forfeited since 1980, till now;

(c) whether the Government are incurring heavy losses on account of the activities of coal mafia;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to constitute a committee of Members of Parliament to investigate the large scale bungling and irregularities in the coal distribution; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA GOUDA): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), during the course of investigation of 7 cases registered by them in 1989 the payments of benami fixed deposit receipts involving an amount of Rs. 3.77 crores were stopped. Later on, an amount of Rs. 2.70 crores was released on the basis of the order dated 22.4.91 of Calcutta High Court. All the 7 cases are reportedly under investigation of the CBI.

(c) and (d) The activities of anti-social elements do affect the efficient and smooth functioning of the Coal Companies, but it is difficult to quantify the losses.

(e) and (f) There is at present no proposal to constitute such a committee. However, Coal Distribution policy of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is being reviewed by the Government.

[English]

Complaints of LPG Consumers of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation

3428. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LPG consumers of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation have to wait for long periods for supply;

(b) whether numerous complaints have been received in this regard in recent years; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) 549 individual complaints have been received during the last two years and have been inquired into. LPG supply is subject to availability in the country, the availability of which varies from year to year.

Harnessing of Bio-Gas in Kerala

3429. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to harness bio-gas energy in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether subsidy is provided to small bio-gas plants in that State and is likely to continue to be given;

(d) whether bio-gas slurry is a good fertilizer; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to promote its use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A target of setting up of 2500 family type biogas plants have been fixed for the nodal department of the State Government of Kerala for 1991-92. Besides, Khadi and Village Industries Commission is also setting up biogas plants in the State.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Central subsidy for small size biogas plants is likely to be continued subject to availability of financial resources and periodic review.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. The steps taken for promotion of the use of slurry for manurial purposes include organisation of demonstrations in farmers' fields, training of beneficiaries, bringing out literature highlighting its benefits in regional languages, etc.

Air Service to Rajahmundry

3430. SHRI K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the Air services to Rajahmundry in view of heavy demand from the ONGC for oil exploration and for gas based industries located there; and